

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07181 020937Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 020723Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9785

S E C R E T AMMAN 7181

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JO, US
SUBJECT: FY 76 FMSCR PROGRAM

REF: (A) AMMAN 5166, (B) AMMAN 6785

1. IN THE PAST WE HAVE ASKED ABOUT THE PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED IN WASHINGTON IN GETTING SAUDI CO-SIGNATURE TO FY 76 FMS CREDIT. IN LIGHT OF RECENT REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED DIRECTLY FROM SENIOR SAUDI MILITARY FIGURES THAT SAUDIS ARE NOT AWARE OF PROCESS THEY MUST FOLLOW IN WASHINGTON, AND INDEED HAVE HEARD NOTHING ABOUT IT FROM THEIR EMBASSY THERE, WE RAISE THE PROBLEM AGAIN.

2. IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT SAUDIS ARE SAYING ABOVE IN ORDER TO AVOID TELLING US HERE THAT THEY HAVE PROBLEM WITH SIGNING. THE LAST VISIT OF PRINCE SULTAN ONLY PRODUCED GENERAL AGREEMENT BY THE SAUDIS TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION SOON AND LET JORDAN KNOW. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THERE MIGHT WELL BE SOME ADVANTAGE, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE, TO PROVIDING JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR SALLAH IN WASHINGTON WITH THE PAPERS (WHICH HE HAS ALREADY SIGNED) AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE MODALITIES OF SAUDI SIGNATURE. THIS MIGHT EVEN LEAD HIM TO A DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR ALI REZA WHO APPARENTLY KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENT, A DISCUSSION WE COULD STIMULATE FROM HERE ONCE WE KNOW THE INFORMATION IS IN SALLAH'S HANDS.

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3. WE DO NOT SUGGEST DIRECT CONTACTS WITH SAUDIS ON THIS
SUBJECT IN KEEPING WITH POSTURE WE KNOW DEPARTMENT
WISHES TO FOLLOW. HOWEVER, SINCE WE ARE HOLDING UP
JORDAN 1977 MAP GRANT AID UNTIL WE SEE WHAT HAPPENS ON
1976 FMS CREDIT (IN ORDER TO COVER JORDAN DEBT POSITION),
WE SHOULD , WE BELIEVE, CONTINUE TO ENERGIZE GOJ ON THE
SUBJECT: THIS IS ONE FACET WHICH WE CANNOT HANDLE HERE.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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